VOL. VIII. NUMB. 561

The SPECTATOR.

——Paulatim abolere Sichæum
Incipit, & vivo tentat prævertere amore
Jampridem reſides animos deſuetaque corda. Virg.

WEDNESDAY, *June* 30. 1714.

SIR,

'I Am a tall, broad ſhoulderd, impudent, black 'Fellow, and, as I thought, every way qua-'lified for a rich Widow: But, after having 'tried my Fortune for above three Years to-'gether, I have not been able to get one ſingle Re-'lict in the Mind. My firſt Attacks were gene-'rally ſucceſsful, but always broke off as ſoon as 'they came to the Word *Settlement*. Though I 'have not improved my Fortune this way, I have 'my Experience, and have learnt ſeveral Secrets 'which may be of Uſe to thoſe unhappy Gen-'tlemen who are commonly diſtinguiſhed by the 'Name of Widow-hunters, and who do not know 'that this Tribe of Women are, generally ſpeaking, 'as much upon the Catch as themſelves. 'I ſhall here communicate to you the Myſte-'ries of a certain Female Cabal of this Order, who 'call themſelves the Widow-Club. This Club 'conſiſts of nine experienced Dames, who take 'their Places once a Week round a large oval 'Table.

'I. Mrs. Preſident is a Perſon who has diſpoſed of 'ſix Husbands, and is now determined to take a ſe-'venth, being of Opinion, that there is as much 'Vertue in the Touch of a ſeventh Husband as of 'a ſeventh Son. Her Comrades are as follow.

'II. Mrs. *Snapp*, who has four Jointures 'by four different Bed-fellows of four different 'Shires. She is at preſent upon the Point of Mar-'riage with a *Middleſex* Man, and is ſaid to have 'an Ambition of extending her Poſſeſſions through 'all the Counties in *England* on this ſide the *Trent*.

'III. Mrs. *Medlar*, who after two Husbands 'and a Gallant, is now wedded to an old Gentle-'man of ſixty. Upon her making her Report to 'the Club after a Week's Cohabitation, ſhe is ſtill 'allowed to ſit as a Widow, and accordingly takes 'her Place at the Board.

'IV. The Widow *Quick*, married within a Fort-'night after the Death of her laſt Husband. Her '*Weeds* have ſerved her thrice, and are ſtill as good 'as New.

'V. Lady *Catherine Swallow*. She was a Widow at 'eighteen, and has ſince buried a ſecond Husband 'and two Coach-men.

'VI. The Lady *Waddle*. She was married in the '15th Year of her Age to Sir *Simon Waddle* Knight, 'aged threeſcore and twelve by whom ſhe had 'Twinns nine Months after his Deceaſe. In the '55th Year of her Age ſhe was married to *James* '*Spindle*, Eſq; a Youth of one and twenty, who 'did not out-live the Honey-Moon.

'VII. *Deborah Conqueſt*. The Caſe of this Lady 'is ſomething particular. She is the Relict of Sir '*Sampſon Conqueſt*, ſometime Juſtice of the *Quorum*. 'Sir *Sampſon* was ſeven Foot high and two Foot in 'Breadth, from the tip of one Shoulder to the o-'ther. He had married three Wives, who all of 'them died in Child-bed. This terrified the whole 'Sex, who none of them durſt venture on Sir *Samp-'ſon*. At length Mrs. *Deborah* undertook him, and 'gave ſo good an Account of him, that in three 'Years time ſhe very fairly laid him out, and mea-'ſured his Length upon the Ground. This Exploit 'has gained her ſo great a Reputation in the Club, 'that they have added Sir *Sampſon*'s three Victories to 'hers, and give her the Merit of a fourth Widow-'hood; and ſhe takes her Place accordingly.

'VIII. The Widow *Wildfire*, Relict of Mr. *John* '*Wildfire*, Fox-hunter, who broke his Neck over 'a ſix Bar Gate. She took his Death ſo much to 'Heart, that it was thought it would have put an 'End to her Life, had ſhe not diverted her Sor-'rows by receiving the Addreſſes of a Gentleman 'in the Neighbourhood, who made Love to her in 'the ſecond Month of her Widowhood. This 'Gentleman was diſcarded in a Fortnight for the 'ſake of a young *Templar*, who had the Poſſeſſion 'of her for ſix Weeks after, till he was beaten out 'by a broken Officer, who likewiſe gave up his 'Place to a Gentleman at Court. The Courtier 'was as ſhort-lived a Favourite as his Predeceſſors, 'but had the Pleaſure to ſee himſelf ſucceeded by a 'long Series of Lovers, who followed the Widow '*Wildfire* to the 37th Year of her Age, at which 'time there enſued a Ceſſation of ten Years, when '*John Felt*, Haberdaſher, took it in his Head to be 'in love with her, and it is thought will very ſud-'denly carry her off.

'IX. The laſt is pretty Mrs. *Runnet*, who broke 'her Firſt Husband's Heart before ſhe was Sixteen, 'at which time ſhe was entered of the Club; but 'ſoon after left it, upon Account of a Second whom

'ſhe

ſhe made ſo quick a Diſpatch of, that ſhe returned to her Seat in leſs than a Twelve-month. This young Matron is looked upon as the moſt riſing Member of the Society, and will probably be in the Preſident's Chair before ſhe Dies.

'Theſe Ladies, upon their firſt Inſtitution, reſolved to give the Pictures of their Deceaſed Husbands to the Club Room, but Two of them bringing in their Dead at full Length, they covered all the Walls: Upon which they came to a ſecond Reſolution, that every Matron ſhould give her own Picture, and ſet it round with her Husbands in Miniature.

'As they have moſt of them the Misfortune to be troubled with the Cholick, they have a Noble Celler of Cordials and ſtrong Waters. When they grow Maudlin they are very apt to commemorate their former Partners with a Tear. But ask them which of their Husbands they Condole, they are not able to tell you, and diſcover plainly, that they do not Weep ſo much for the loſs of a Husband, as for the want of One.

'The principal Rule, by which the whole Society are to govern themſelves is this, To cry up the Pleaſures of a ſingle Life, upon all Occaſions, in order to deter the reſt of their Sex from Marriage, and Engroſs the whole Male World to themſelves.

'They are obliged, when any one makes Love to a Member of the Society, to communicate his Name, at which time the whole Aſſembly ſit upon his Reputation, Perſon, Fortune, and good Humour; and if they find him qualified for a Siſter of the Club, they lay their Heads together how to make him ſure. By this means they are acquainted with all the Widow-hunters about Town, who often afford them great Diverſion. There is an honeſt *Iriſh* Gentleman it ſeems, who knows nothing of this Society, but at different times has made Love to the whole Club.

'Their Converſation often turns upon their former Husbands, and it is very diverting to hear them relate their ſeveral Arts and Stratagems, with which they amuſed the Jealous, pacified the Cholerick, or wheedled the Good-natured Man, 'till at laſt, to uſe the Club-phraſe, *They ſent him out of the Houſe with his Heels foremoſt.*

'The Politicks, which are moſt cultivated by this Society of She-*Machiavils*, relate chiefly to theſe two Points: How to treat a Lover, and How to manage a Husband. As for the firſt Set of Artifices, they are too Numerous to come within the compaſs of your Paper, and ſhall therefore be reſerved for a ſecond Letter.

'The Management of a Husband is built upon the following Doctrines, which are Univerſally aſſented to by the whole Club. Not to give him his Head at firſt. Not to allow him too great Freedoms and Familiarities. Not to be treated by him like a Raw Girl, but as a Woman that knows the World. Not to Leſſen any thing of her former Figure. To celebrate the Generoſity, or any other Vertue of a deceaſed Husband, which ſhe would recommend to his Succeſſor. To turn away all his old Friends and Servants, that ſhe may have the Dear Man to her ſelf. To make him diſinherit the undutiful Children of any former Wife. Never to be thoroughly convinced of his Affection, 'till he has made over to her all his Goods and Chattels.

'After ſo long a Letter, I am without more Ceremony,

Your Humble Servant, &c.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This Day is Publiſhed,

The preſent Miniſtry juſtify'd, or an Account of the State of the ſeveral Treaties of Peace between Her Majeſty and her Allies, and France and Spain; with an Account of the Obſtructions of Peace, and of what was done relating to the Catalans; as laid before both Houſes of Parliament. Printed for J. Morphew near Stationers Hall, price 1 s.

Yeſterday was Publiſh'd,

The Rape of Proſerpine, from Claudian. In three Books. With the Story of Sextus and Erichtho, from Lucan's Pharſalia, Book 6. Tranſlated by Mr. Jabez Hughes. Sold by Ferd. Burleigh in Amen-Corner, price 18 d. Where may be had, Trojan Tales, related by Ulyſſes, Helenus, Hector, Achilles and Priam. Price bound in Sheep 2 s. in Calf 2 s. 6 d.

This Day is Publiſhed,

A Vindication of the Earl of Nottingham from the vile Imputations and malicious Slanders which have been caſt upon him in ſome late Pamphlets. Printed for J. Roberts near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane, price 1 s.

Her Majeſty Queen ANNE *having made a Grant to Michael Maittaire, Gent. or to his Aſſigns, for Printing and Publiſhing a compleat Collection of all the Greek and Latin Authors in Twelves, with compleat Indexes: There is now (in purſuance of that Grant) Printed, and Publiſhed by Jacob Tonſon and John Watts, Aſſigns of the ſaid Michael Maittaire, very curious and correct Editions, in* 12mo. *(with Copious and Uſeful Indexes,) of the following Books, viz.*

I. Publii Terentii Carthaginienſis Afri Comœdiæ.
II. Titi Lucretii Cari de Rerum Natura Libri Sex.
III. Phædri Aug. Liberti Fabularum Æſopiarum Libri quinque; item, Fabulæ quædam ex MS. veteri Marquardo Gudio deſcriptæ; cum Indice Vocum & Locutionum. Appendicis loco adjiciuntur Fabulæ Græcæ quædam & Latinæ ex variis Authoribus collectæ; quas claudit Avieni Æſopicarum Fabularum Liber Unicus.
IV. Caii Salluſtii Criſpi quæ extant.
V. Velleii Paterculi Hiſtoriæ Romanæ quæ Superſunt.
VI. Juſtini Hiſtoriarum ex Trogo Pompeio Libri XLIV.

Alſo ΤΗΣ ΚΑΙΝΗΣ ΔΙΑΘΗΚΗΣ ΑΠΑΝΤΑ. Novum Teſtamentum.

N. B. *There are ſeveral other Authors in the Preſs, and near finiſhed; and this Collection will be made compleat with all convenient ſpeed.*

The Royal Chymical Waſh-Balls, for the Hands and Face, are remov'd from Mr. Lambert's the Glovers, to prevent the Publick's being impoſed on by Counterfeits, and are now ſold only at Mr. Allcroft's Toyſhop at the Blue-Coat-Boy againſt the Royal Exchange, Cornhill; and at Mrs. Giles's, Milliner, next Hercules-Pillars-Alley by the Temple. They have above theſe eight Years been largely experienc'd, and highly recommended by all that uſe them, for making the Skin ſo delicate ſoft and ſmooth, as not to be paralell'd by either Waſh, Powder, Coſmetick, &c. they being indeed real Beautifiers of the Skin, by taking off all Deformities, as Tetters, Ring-Worms, Morphew, Sunburn, Scurf, Pimples, Pits or Redneſs of the Small-Pox, and keeping it of a laſting and extream Whiteneſs, they ſoon alter red or rough Hands, and are admirable in ſhaving the Head, for they not only give a more exquiſite ſharpneſs to the Razor but ſo comfort the Brain and Nerves, as to prevent catching Cold; they are of a grateful and pleaſant Scent, without the leaſt Grain of Mercury. Sold only by Mr. Allcroft, and Mrs. Giles, as above, pr. 1 s. each; and no where elſe in London, by Retail; therefore beware of Counterfeits, which are not only ineffectual but may alſo prove dangerous.

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